

REMARKS

Claims 13-27, as amended, and new claims 28-29 appear in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 13 has been amended as described below to further define the invention. No new matter has been added so that this change should be entered at this time. The new claims are supported by the drawings and specification, e.g., at paragraph [0040]. Again, no new matter has been added so that these changes and additions should be added at this time.

Claims 13-27 were rejected as being anticipated by US patent 6,726,660 to Hessel, which discloses an implant for implantation into an animal or a human body. Hessel's implant includes an axial interior section for fixation inside the body and an axial exterior section, extending outwards from the body for mounting of a device which can be detachably connected to the body via the ring. The interior section and the exterior section are connected to each other by at least one connecting section with at least one transverse opening. Through the transverse openings, tissue can be formed for fastening of the implant. The fastening can be additionally secured by placing a number of anchoring members in the transverse openings.

The major difference between Hessel and the present invention is that the implant according to the present invention is so flat that it can be located inside the body to prevent herniation in relation to the intestines. As is clear from e.g. Figs. 4-9 and the entire description of Hessel, Hessel is directed to a transdermal device structured to protrude from the abdominal wall. Hessel needs a much longer axial extent than the inventive hypodermal implant for preventing herniation. In fact it is emphasized as important that this known implant has a length sufficient for reaching outside the body, so that a detachable device such as an ostomy bag, can be secured to it.

In order to further distinguish the invention from Hessel, claim 113 has been amended to recite that the "inside diameter of the outer ring is larger than the outside diameter of the inner ring" as supported by paragraph [0047] of the published specification. In contrast, in Hessel, these diameters are identical. In addition to a different structure, Hessel's device operates in an entirely different manner. As Hessel has a different structure and operates in a different manner, the anticipation rejection based on Hessel has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should the Examiner not agree, then a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss any remaining issues and expedite the eventual allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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